price payment to the cane growers. Further, the sugar mills having cane price arrears above 25% have been served show cause notices by the State Government.

The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1996 has been amended enabling the Central Government/State Governments to recover cane price arrears as arrears of land revenue. The Central Government is also granting advance freesale quotas over and above the normal freesale quotas to the sugar mills to enable them to make payment to the cane growers expeditiously.

Talks between India and China on boundary dispute

*65. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether expert Group of India and China have begun talks on clarification of the Line of Actual Control in Western Sector of Indo-China boundary;

(b) if so, by when these talks are likely to be completed; and

(c) the details of the progress made in the various rounds of talks held in the past ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Discussion on the clarification of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of the India-China Boundary began at the 12th Meeting of the India-China Expert Group (EG) of Diplomatic and Military Officials which was held in Beijing on June 17, 2002.

(b) During the visit of External Affairs Minister of China in March/ April 2002, both sides agreed to do their best to complete the exchange of sample maps of the LAC in the Western Sector of the India-China boundary by the end of 2002.

(c) Maps have been exchanged to clarify the LAC in the Middle Sector.